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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/075,820	02/12/2002	Yu-Jung Cheng	13732.36US01	8823
23552	7590	03/25/2005	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			DENNISON, JERRY B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2143	

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/075,820

Applicant(s)

CHENG ET AL.

Examiner

J. Bret Dennison

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Action is in response to Application Number 10/075,820 received on 12 February 2002.
2. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Claims 1, 6-9, and 14-16 recite the limitation "and/or" which is unclear to Examiner. The limitation will be read as "or". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting

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directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000.

Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Van Gong (U.S. Patent Number 6,370,565).

4. Regarding claims 1 and 9, Van Gong discloses a system and method of real-time interaction for multiple objects, comprising:

a scene dividing module for dividing a main scene into a first scene and a second scene, and determining the adjacent area of the first scene and the second scene (Van Gong, col. 6, lines 43-51);

a first control unit for controlling at least one object in the first scene (Van Gong, col. 6, lines 10-15);

a second control unit for controlling at least one object in the second scene (Van Gong, col. 6, lines 10-15); and

a synchronization module to enable the first control unit to synchronize with the second control unit if the status incidence of the objects controlled by the first control unit and/or the second control unit overlaps the adjacent area of the first scene and the second scene (Van Gong, col. 6, lines 43-51, col. 7, lines 25-40, col. 8, lines 20-35).

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5. Regarding claims 2 and 10, Van Gong discloses the limitation, substantially as claimed, as described in claims 1 and 9, including wherein the scene dividing module further divides the first scene into a first sub-scene and a second sub-scene if the number of objects controlled by the first control unit is more than a load threshold (Van Gong, col. 7, lines 44-59).

6. Regarding claims 3 and 11, Van Gong discloses the limitation, substantially as claimed, as described in claims 2 and 10, including wherein the objects in the first sub-scene are controlled by the first control unit, and the objects in the second sub-scene are controlled by a third control unit (Van Gong col. 7, lines 33-59).

7. Regarding claims 4 and 12, Van Gong discloses the limitation, substantially as claimed, as described in claims 1 and 9, including wherein the objects controlled by the first control unit are taken over by a third control unit if a failure occurs in the first control unit (Van Gong, col. 9, lines 1-13, Van Gong teaches redistribution by the master server at a programmable time to avoid failure).

8. Regarding claims 5 and 13, Van Gong discloses the limitation, substantially as claimed, as described in claims 1 and 9, including wherein the scene dividing module divides the main scene into the first scene and the second scene according to the potential visible set and grid (Van Gong, col. 6, lines 50-53, Van Gong teaches dividing the scene based on position information).

9. Regarding claims 6 and 14, Van Gong discloses the limitation, substantially as claimed, as described in claims 1 and 9, including wherein the first control unit and/or the second control unit are responsible for handling the behavior of objects (Van Gong, col. 6, lines 10-45, Van Gong teaches that each server maintains objects and their interactions).

10. Regarding claims 7 and 15, Van Gong discloses the limitation, substantially as claimed, as described in claims 1 and 9, including wherein the first control unit and/or the second control unit are responsible for handling the interaction between objects (Van Gong, col. 6, lines 35-40).

11. Regarding claims 8 and 16, Van Gong discloses the limitation, substantially as claimed, as described in claims 1 and 9, including wherein the first control unit and/or the second control unit are responsible for handling the events produced by scenes (Van Gong, col. 9, lines 50-65).

Claim Interpretation

Examiner interprets the benefit of Applicant's invention as shown by Van Gong in Figure

3. Van Gong shows a master server 410 acting as the synchronization module, reducing the amount of communication between servers 420a-d for synchronization. Figure 3 shows bi-directional communication between the servers 420a-d and also between the master server 410 and servers 420a-d.

Conclusion

12. **Examiner's Note:** Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. Bret Dennison whose telephone number is (571) 272-3910. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5pm.

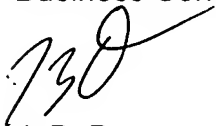
14. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


15. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


J. B. D.
Patent Examiner
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